REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of September 11, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-27 remain in this application.

Applicants have amended the specification and abstract of the disclosure to correct various minor informalities. No new matter has been added. Also, applicants have amended the claims to improve their clarity.

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 5,140,647 to Ise et al. ("Ise"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended claim 1 calls for, among other features, capturing an image; dividing the captured image into a plurality of image segments; performing image processing on each of the plurality of image segments; and storing each of the plurality of image segments. The action alleges that Ise shows all the features of independent claims 1, 10, and 19. The action contends that col. 1, ll. 38-46; col. 13, ll. 15-58; and Figs. 1-3 and 18 show the claim 1 combination of features.

Ise is directed to inputting a large size image (e.g., newspaper, A2 size, A3 size, etc.) using a small image input device such as scanner that can only read or input an image of a smaller size (e.g., an A4 size image). According to Ise a large size image is divided into a plurality of image portions that the small image input device can accommodate prior to input. Then, the image portions are sequentially inputted to the small image input device. Following input, the image portions are joined together to restore the original large size image. In significant contrast to Ise, the claim 1 invention calls for capturing an image and then dividing the captured image into a plurality of image segments. Namely, whereas Ise divides a large size image into plural image portions prior to input, the claim 1 inventions divides a *captured image* into a plurality of image segment. Ise is wholly different from the invention of claim 1 and is directed to providing the capability of inputting or reading a large image into a smaller sized input device, whereas the claim 1 invention can provide increased processing speed for an image by performing image processing on each of a plurality of image segments. Thus, Ise lacks a

teaching or suggestion of dividing the captured image into a plurality of image segments as recited in claim 1.

Independent claim 10 calls for a computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing, among other steps, the step of *causing a captured image to be divided* into a plurality of image segments. Independent claim 19 calls for, among other features, a processor that *divides a captured image* into a plurality of image segments and performs image processing on each of the plurality of image segments. Hence, for substantially the same reasons as claim 1, independent claims 10 and 19 are patentably distinct from Ise.

Claims 2-9, 24 and 25, which ultimately depend from claim 1, claims 11-18, 26 and 27, which ultimately depend from claim 10, and claims 20-23, which ultimately depend from claim 19, are patentably distinct from Ise for the same reasons as their ultimate base claim, and further in view of the novel features recited therein. For example, claim 2 calls for performing image processing on each of the plurality of image segments in pipeline stages. Ise is wholly devoid of any teaching or suggestion of performing image processing in pipeline stages.

Claim 4 recites that the performing step is performed on a first image segment when the storing step is performed on a second image segment. No teaching or suggestion of such a feature is present in Ise. Apparently, the action alleges that items 21 and 22 in Fig. 3 suggests such a feature. On the contrary, Ise states "an image or picture is divided into two image portions which are inputted separately and *sequentially* and joined together into one image on the memory, as is illustrated in FIG. 3." Col. 3, 1. 67 to col. 4, 1. 2. Indeed Fig. 2 shows a sequential system, where a first image is input, processed and displayed (storage) in steps 100-108 followed by inputting, processing and display of a second image (storage) in steps 110-118.

Claim 9 calls for performing at least a portion of the image processing in at least two parallel image processing stages. As discussed above, Ise describes nothing more than sequential processing of images.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.
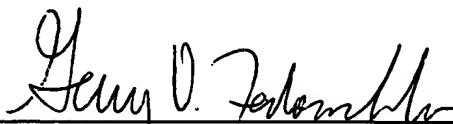
All rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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